

Khamenei: No Palestine compromise

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday Israel must be obliterated and compromise over the Palestinian issue was treason. "In the Palestinian issue the goal is obliteration of Israel," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying. "There is no difference between land occupied before or after 1967. Every span is part of the Muslim homeland and any government there except a government of Islam and Muslim Palestinians is a usurper," Khamenei said. "A bid for returning the occupied lands to Palestinians is a divine duty and any compromise is treason." The cleric told 150 foreign guests attending the first Islamic conference on Palestine held in Tehran. His remarks appeared aimed against the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which took a two-state solution. Among the speakers at the three-day meeting's opening session Tuesday was Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, said Tehran Radio.

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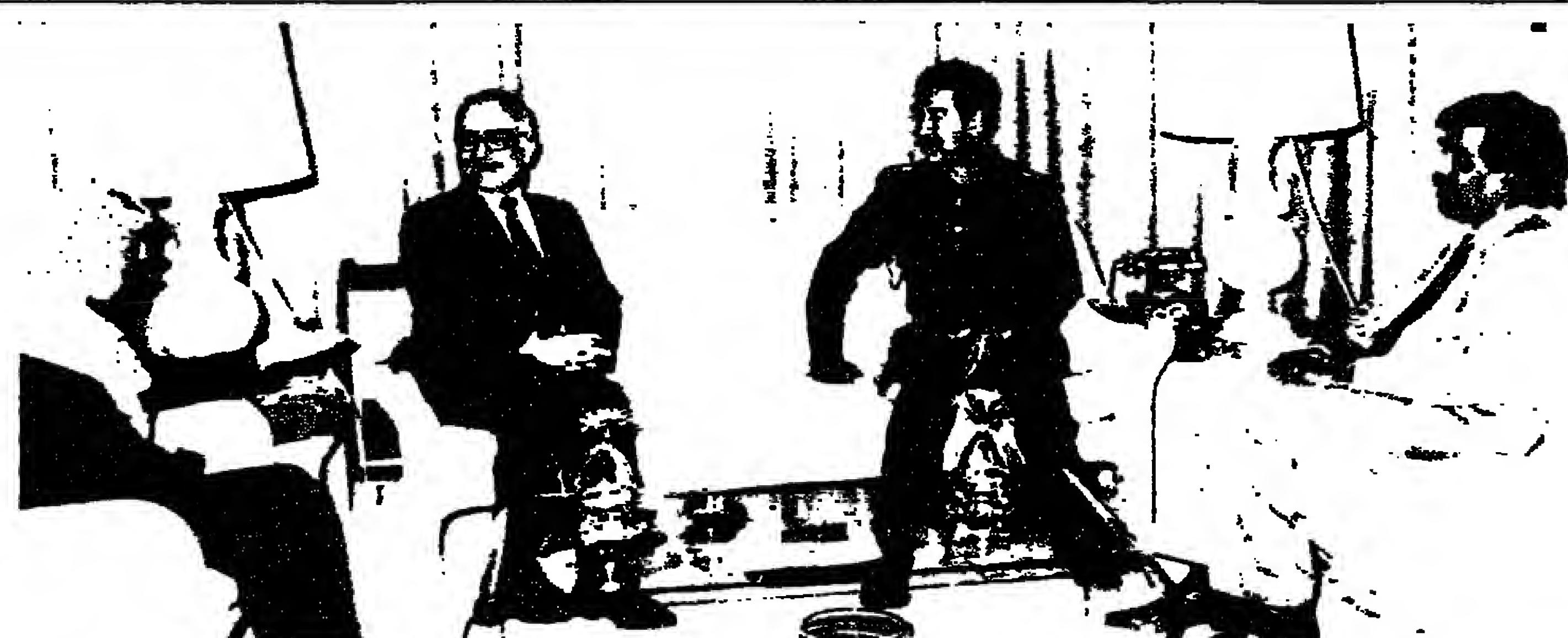
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PLO income reported halved

CAIRO (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) estimates it has lost \$2 billion in the four months since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Palestinian sources said Tuesday. The sources told Reuters that the PLO's income has been slashed by about 50 per cent since Iraq seized the emirate. The loss of income to Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories and elsewhere and derived from Palestinian businesses and residents in Kuwait was valued at \$1.3 billion so far, the sources said. Kuwait's exiled government has stopped its direct contribution to the PLO's annual running costs. The sources said that before the invasion, the kingdom contributed about \$1 billion a year — about one third of the PLO's running costs. The Palestinian movement as a whole has been hurt by the Gulf crisis in several ways, diplomats said. Apart from direct financial contributions from Gulf Arab states, about half of the 400,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait have fled the emirate since the invasion.

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1990, JUMA'DAH AL-ULA 17, 1411

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His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh meet in Baghdad Tuesday (Peta photo)

King returns after one-day trip to Iraq

Jordanian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Yemeni leaders hold mini-summit in Baghdad

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh Tuesday held talks in Baghdad on the Gulf crisis and the next moves in efforts to resolve the conflict.

King Hussein, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, returned home late Tuesday.

The four leaders held a round of closed talks preceded by a meeting attended by senior aides, Jordan Television said. No details were immediately available.

The mini-summit was expected to have focused on U.S. President George Bush's initiative to open direct talks with Iraq on the Gulf crisis. The initiative involves an invitation to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to the White House and an offer to send the American decision to lift its embargo on dialogue with Iraq, according to senior officials.

Political analysts believe that the American move paves the way for Jordan to play an important role in preparing the ground for the American-Iraqi encounter and laying the basis for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis.

They pointed out that despite inter-Arab differences — including undeclared punitive measures against Jordan — Amman has been trying to de-escalate tension with Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti ruling family.

In a move apparently aimed at mending fences with Saudi Arabia, Amman has decided to send back to Riyadh Jordan's Ambassador Naser Al Batayneh three months after recalling him due to differences over the Gulf crisis (See story on page 3).

Analysts believe that Jordan is preparing itself to play a mediating role by retaining its good offices with all parties involved in

Well-informed sources expected the mini-summit to coordinate a unified negotiating position ahead of the expected Aziz visit to the U.S.

Yemen's Beedh arrived here Monday and held talks with the King before flying with him to Baghdad Tuesday. The King's talks with the Yemeni leader also dealt with the American decision to lift its embargo on dialogue with Iraq, according to senior officials.

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq allows all Soviets to leave, demands compensation

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq announced Tuesday it was allowing the nearly 3,500 Soviet experts still in the country to leave, but demanded that the Kremlin compensate for terminating their work contracts, the official media reported.

The radio and the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the decision was made by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, which is headed by President Saddam Hussein.

The radio and INA quoted a council statement as saying the decision to let the Soviets leave on Wednesday was made "in order to avoid any misunderstanding and misinterpretation and so that this issue of Soviet experts remains outside the framework of the various deals under way which regrettably involve the Soviet Union."

"We have decided to allow all Soviet experts wishing to travel out of Iraq to do so, provided that the Soviet government alone assumes full responsibility for consequences of breaking contracts in this regard," the statement said.

Iraq had warned foreign companies and employees that it would demand compensation for any contract breached after its release.

President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, said Tuesday, 3,232 Soviets remain in Iraq. They are mostly construction workers, pipeline layers and oil and gas industry technicians under contract to official agencies.

The Soviets in Iraq have not been listed among the hundreds of Americans, Europeans and Japanese held at strategic locations to deter attack.

Iraq, which previously insisted

Soviet workers could leave only after contracts expired, has accused Moscow, a former key ally

and armourer, of planning to use

the presence of its nationals in Iraq as a pretext for sending troops to the Gulf.

Moscow last week voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 authorising war against Iraq if it refused to withdraw its army from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned Baghdad that Moscow would send troops to the region if Soviet citizens in Iraq were mistreated.

Japan, stung by claims that it has not done enough for its hostages in Iraq, said Tuesday it was sending an envoy to Baghdad and drawing up a contingency plan ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Waranale said Kumadasa Kume, the ministry's head of consular and emigration affairs, would arrive in Baghdad Wednesday and stay for three days.

"Our government has been criticised by the families of the hostages for not doing enough. They felt they were abandoned by the government and not enough attention was being paid to them," he told a news conference.

In Canberra, Prime Minister

(Continued on page 5)

Ortega discloses contacts with U.S. over Gulf

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega disclosed Tuesday that he had prior contacts with the American administration before embarking on his ongoing mission to resolve the Gulf crisis.

In his second recent visit to Baghdad, Ortega held a five-hour meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Ortega, who is accompanied by the former Nicaraguan foreign minister, Father Miguel Díaz-Canel, is expected to leave for Germany on Wednesday to confer with former German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The Nicaraguan leader implied that the Gulf initiative will essentially be a compromise compatible with the United Nations Charter.

"We are not in the process of counting votes of who is in favour of Iraq and who is in favour of the United States," he said. "Our efforts aim at formulating an initiative that enhances international law and the United Nations Charter

and is in favour of peace," he told the students.

Ortega said he was encouraged by the positive response by the Iraqis and the other parties to the ideas that have been put forward as part of the proposed peace initiative.

Although Ortega, who was opposed by consecutive American administrations during his ten years in power before stepping down in February 1990, does not have clout in Washington political circles, he believes that his role might be instrumental in influencing the course of events in the Gulf.

Ortega appears to be working on two levels: On the one hand he is practically rallying support of the Third World, basically in Latin America, behind Iraq in its confrontation with the West.

On the other hand, he is seeking a settlement which will lay a basis for a commitment from all sides involved to respect international law and conventions. In Ortega's view, such a settlement will be in favour of the Third World

(Continued on page 5)

Arab ministers in intense Gulf talks

Cairo (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia held a second round of Gulf crisis talks in a Nile-side hotel suite Tuesday.

"We discussed the Gulf, the developments in it and everything which can arise from this crisis..." Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters.

"There are contacts and coordination. Everything is as best as it can be between us three."

Abdul Meguid said he expected a third round of talks with his Saudi Arabian and Syrian counterparts — Prince Saud Al Faisal and Farouq Al Sharaa — later in the day.

The ministers also held a 90-minute meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday.

While no details of their discussions were given, Western diplomats said the three countries must be concerned that U.S. President George Bush had gone over their heads by offering to hold direct talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said Monday the three ministers were discussing coordination of military operations.

Sharaa said on his arrival in Cairo that they would be discussing the U.S. talks with Iraq.

The Syrian minister told reporters that Damascus, Cairo and Riyadh all welcomed Bush's offer but insisted that U.N. Security Council resolutions be implemented in full.

Bu Abdul Meguid, when asked on Tuesday if the three ministers expected anything to come out of the U.S.-Iraqi talks, said: "No, we did not discuss this subject."

(Continued on page 4)

U.N. waters down Iran human rights resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A committee Tuesday adopted a human rights resolution on Iran after deleting mention of "executions, ill-treatment and torture," as Amnesty International accused Tehran of the biggest wave of political executions in the 1980s.

The General Assembly subcommittee dealing with human rights dropped the strongest language in its draft resolution Monday so Tehran would continue cooperating with U.N. human rights investigations and let the Red Cross visit its prisons.

Tehran radio said the original draft resolution was a "lever" to pressure Iran into dropping its opposition to U.S.-led forces stationed in Saudi Arabia.

The state-run radio said Iran had upset the "big" powers by refusing to join the U.S.-led forces dispatched to Saudi Arabia.

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(Continued on page 4)

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army bulldozers smashed through barricades and engineers dismantled mines Tuesday along the "green line" battle zone that had divided Beirut for 15 years.

The Lebanese government, backed by 40,000 Syrian troops, regained control of the capital Monday after the reluctant withdrawal of the last private army, the powerful Lebanese Forces of Maronite Christian leader Samir Geagea.

Dozens of people cheered President Elias Hrawi's soldiers and expressed their relief as four bulldozers destroyed the barriers that had separated the capital communities since 1975.

Army engineers defused and detonated mines and unexploded shells lurking under the rubble and in tall weeds along the 12-kilometre swathe of ruined buildings.

Stray dogs emerged from shell-

Israel may resume expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel Radio said Tuesday the occupation authorities were considering resuming expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, a policy suspended 16 months ago under international pressure.

"The Israeli defence and legal establishments are intensely examining the possibility of more extensive use, of expulsion of Palestinian activists," the radio said.

Israeli sources told Reuters military authorities were considering expulsion orders against 10 Palestinians proposed by adviser to the military commanders of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They said orders exiling the Palestinians to another country could be issued within a few days.

Military authorities have expelled at least 58 Palestinians suspected of activities against Israel since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

The policy was suspended last year after criticism from Western Europe and the United States. Israel last expelled Palestinians in August 1989, when five West Bankers were banished.

Israel Radio said Defence Minister Moshe Arens had asked state attorney Dorit Beinisch and the army's legal adviser, Amnon Strashnow, to examine the policy on expulsions.

Arens told the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee Monday that expulsion of Palestinians may be used in the future.

The talk of fresh expulsions follows Arab-Jewish violence sparked by the police massacre of over 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem on Oct. 8.

Israeli forces Tuesday captured five Arabs identified by local Palestinians as drug smugglers and shot dead a sixth as they sat in a fishing boat from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israeli military officials said the six men looked suspicious as they set out on the Mediterranean towards Egypt around sunset on Monday and they ignored a navy patrol.

(Continued on page 5)

Beirut 'green line' is no more

shattered buildings, barking furiously as the yellow machine started demolishing an earth embankment that split the embattled sectors of the city.

Martyr's Square and surrounding streets, the former business centre of the capital, were part of no-man's-land that became overgrown with bushes and small trees still sprouting from cracks in pavement.

Two small anti-personnel mines exploded under the bulldozer's chains as it set about its task.

The huge machine was not affected by the small blasts. But a Lebanese army captain ordered the operation discontinued until troops cleared the area of more mines.

Young helmeted soldiers, equipped with long sticks, skinned the undergrowth. They found and defused about 50 of the beige plastic devices in 15

minutes.

As the bulldozer roared into action again, a pack of dogs watching the unfamiliar crowd from an adjacent rise scampered off yelping. Their retreat was accompanied by a third mine blast which the troops set off by one of the dogs.

The army deployed in downtown Beirut Monday in the first phase of a government plan to reunite the capital and end the fighting that has killed more than 150,000 people.

The area around Martyr's Square just north of Beirut port became the scene of some of the most savage battles as rival militias clashed repeatedly for control of the strategic area.

The crumbling facades of the old multi-story buildings fronting on the square are peppered with bullet and shellholes, their interiors gutted by fire.

Bush gives Iraq chance to link Gulf to Palestinians

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's offer of direct talks with Iraq has given Baghdad a new opportunity to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian problem, a tie-in the United States might find difficult to avoid.

A succession of top Bush administration officials went on television at the weekend, all delivering the same message — that the offer to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Washington and send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad did not mean the beginning to negotiations and compromises.

It is not a negotiation. There are going to be talks, there's going to be discussions, but no negotiations beyond what the U.S. has already decided, said Vice-President Dan Quayle.

Baker said the only concession Washington might make would be to assure Iraq it would not be attacked if it withdrew unconditionally from Kuwait.

But such reassurances failed to satisfy such powerful and influential critics as former U.S. secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig. The Bush gambit, they argued, had let the genies of a partial solution and linkage to the Palestinian problem out of the bottle.

"Above all, it will be perceived as a negotiation by our allies, many of whom, I believe, will now start their own lines to Baghdad. And I think it will be very difficult to hold the coalition together," said Kissinger.

Adam Garfinkel, a Mideast analyst with the Foreign Policy Research Institute, said the United States might be walking into an Iraqi trap in which



Saddam Hussein



George Bush
said the Iraqi envoy in Washington, Mohammad Al Mashat.

it would become enmeshed in protracted talks that promised success but never quite delivered it.

"Once you start talking with the enemy, it changes everything. By opening this sequence, the Bush administration has put itself at the mercy of Iraqi intentions," he said.

Haig was even more critical, saying:

"Iraq is going to play the United States like a flute, and this is just beginning to unfold," he said.

"Already the outlines of a deal are being cobbled together — an assurance that we won't go into Iraq if it withdraws, and possibly the introduction of the Palestinian question into the talks," he said.

Baghdad's strategy in the talks which are expected to take place before Jan. 15 — when the United Nations resolution authorising the use of force takes effect — is already clear.

Iraq's ambassador to Washington and the United Nations both made it clear at the weekend that Iraq would try to bring the Palestinian issue into the equation.

"Now, we are going to negotiate with each other,"

Cheney, Powell fail to sway Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — By repeatedly urging President George Bush to stick with the economic embargo against Iraq, Senate Democrats are rejecting the administration's bleak assessment of the sanctions' effectiveness.

Sen. Sam Nunn made the point repeatedly during five days of hearings that he engineered as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Day after day, former U.S. Defense officials urged the White House to give the sanctions more time — bolstering the Democratic challenge to Bush's strategy.

Democrats were not deterred by Cheney or Powell's testimony nor by the United Nations Security Council's authorization of military force against Iraq if Kuwait is not freed by Jan. 15. Nor did they take comfort in Bush's announcement last Friday that he will send Secretary of State James Baker to Iraq to meet with Saddam before that date.

"If we go to war, we never will know whether they would have worked," said the Georgia Democrat, who has criticised the president's decision to increase the number of U.S. troops in the region to more than 440,000.

Cheney and Powell struck a pessimistic tone, saying that Iraq could survive the international sanctions imposed after its forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

They also used their appearances before the panel to try to stem the tide of congressional discontent over Bush's conduct.

"Given the nature of the regime, given Saddam Hussein's brutality to his own people, his very tight control of that society, his ability to allocate resources for the military, their ability to produce their own food... we can ride them out," Cheney said.

The ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, Sen. John Warner of Virginia, said in an interview later in the day that Cheney and Powell "put in balance clearly the testimony of the witnesses of the previous week."

The testimony last week from the likes of retired Adm. William Crowe, a former chairman of the

Joint Chiefs, and Reagan administration Navy Secretary James Webb bolstered the Democratic challenge to Bush's policy.

Crowe and another former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, retired air force Gen. David C. Jones, said Bush should give sanctions a year to 18 months to take effect before resorting to military force.

Webb took a harsher tone, contending that Bush blundered in sending 200,000 additional troops to the Gulf region and should not compound the error by launching a military strike.

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Somali political talks to go ahead despite violence

CAIRO (Agencies) — Talks on reforming Somalia's political system will go ahead despite recent clashes in the Somali capital, according to Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abd Al Meguid.

The talks with opposition groups are aimed at ending a rebellion against the government.

"There will be a meeting soon in Cairo," Abdul Meguid told Reuters after talks with Somali Foreign Minister Ahmad Mohammad Aden and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

"We hope this will lead to stability and calm the situation down in Somalia," he said, confirming the talks would go ahead as planned on Dec. 11.

Witnesses in the Somali capital Mogadishu Monday reported having seen several bodies lying in the market place and in nearby streets since rival clans began fighting with machine guns and hand grenades Thursday.

They said troops were moving in to try to stop the fighting.

The Abgal clan claimed that members of the Galgalo clan had been killing them with weapons supplied by the government of President Mohammad Siad Barre.

The Abgal are part of the Hawiye tribe which forms the backbone of the United Somali Congress (USC) fighting to topple Siad Barre, who has ruled the country since 1969.

The USC and another rebel group, the Somali National Movement (SNM), control much of Somalia. The fighting has caused some 400,000 Somalis to flee their impoverished country in the Horn of Africa to neighbouring Ethiopia.

When asked if all five opposition groups invited to the talks had agreed to attend, Abdul Meguid said: "I don't want to talk about numbers. All rebel parties will be involved."

Asked specifically about attendance of the SNM, the country's main rebel group, he said the situation was still not clear.

Somalia has promised to send a high-level representative to the talks, which will also be attended by Egypt and Somalia's former colonial administrator Italy.

Somalia's major Western aid donors have pressed it to carry out political reforms following allegations of human rights violations.

Somalia announces rewards

The Somali government has put part of its armed forces on alert and offered cash awards to citizens assisting in the arrests of rebels.

The measures were announced by Prime Minister Hawadle Madar Mohammad.

Madar Mohammad did not say what part of the armed forces had been put on alert, but he called on civilians to join the troops to help stop the fighting.

He offered two million shillings (\$832) to citizens involved in the arrest of "bandits" and between one million (\$416) and 10 million shillings (\$4,166) to anyone wounded in fighting.

The government also offered to buy firearms from citizens and warned it would "deal severely" with those caught with unlicensed guns, said Madar Mohammad.

He said armed groups in recent days had been "wreaking havoc" in the capital Mogadishu and other districts, according to the official.

Virginia Kern of the London

Iran's war veterans say Iraqi forces tough

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian veterans of the 1980-88 war with Iraq say the Americans and their allies cannot expect a short, quick war if they attack to liberate Kuwait.

The United States plans to have 430,000 troops in the Gulf by January. A total of about 150,000 troops were sent by 27 other nations.

Iraq has an estimated 229,000 troops in Kuwait and another 230,000 in southern Iraq near the Kuwait border. It has said 250,000 more men will be sent to Kuwait, a deployment U.S. experts say could take a month.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besbaro, chief of intelligence for the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps during the war, warned: "The Americans will lose on the ground because they don't have enough troops. I doubt they'll be able to push Iraq out of Kuwait."

He acknowledged that the Americans will control the skies. "But air power can be used only to support ground forces. It doesn't win wars on its own."

Alireza, a wartime intelligence officer, said the Iraqis' chemical weapons were "their cutting edge."

"They could wipe out large numbers of troops at a time," said Alireza, who refused to be further identified.

If war breaks out, it would be fought on a desert terrain with which the Iraqis are familiar, Alireza said.

The Americans "have some elite units who've practised desert warfare. Iraq has tens of thousands of soldiers who've actually fought under those conditions," he said.

"If the Americans think they can fight a short, quick war, they're wrong," he said.

Dubai arms show to start in Gulf — Iraq not welcome

DUBAI (R) — Warplanes and weapons ranged against each other in the Gulf will line up in competition in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) next month when the region's biggest arms show opens its doors to all but Iraq.

"The organisers say they hope the Soviet Union — exhibiting in Dubai for the first time — will put its state-of-the-art MiG-31 Foxhound on show."

The MiG-31 is not yet confirmed but they have said they will be bringing the MiG-28 Havoc combat helicopter," said an organiser.

The two aircraft were developed to combat Western weapon systems deployed by NATO in Europe but the end of the cold war in Europe means they are looking for new markets.

American giants Lockheed, Boeing, General Dynamics and McDonnell Douglas will exhibit, along with West European manufacturers.

Salesmen from China's state weapons firms — which supplied surface-to-surface missiles to Iran during the 1980-88 Gulf war — will also be there.

If the MiG-31 flies at Dubai, viewers will be able to compare it with General Dynamics' sophisticated FA-18 Hornet, which is also expected to be put through its paces.

Kuwait had Hornets on order at the time of the Iraqi invasion.

Heavy weapons will be on view and defensive systems, including protection against nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, are also expected to be on show.

European manufacturers of protective equipment and clothing have reported unprecedented interest because of the threat posed by Iraq's arsenal of chemical weapons.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:55 Bahrain (TK)
20:45 Sanaa (LR)
21:55 Karachi (PK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in £s per kg.
Apple 600 / 200
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Makrman) 450 / 400
Beefs 280 / 240
Carrot 240 / 180
Cauliflower 140 / 100
Cora 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 280
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 180 / 150
Figs 500 / 200
Grape 1400 / 1000
Lemon 170 / 120
Mallow 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 100 / 50
Marrow (small) 220 / 180
Onion (dry) 240 / 200
Onion (green) 220 / 180
Okra 600 / 400
Orange 340 / 200
Pepper (hot) 220 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 300 / 250
Radicchio 200 / 150
Sage 650 / 500
Tomato 150 / 100
Tomatoes 170 / 120

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (EG)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (US)
12:25 Tunis, Casablanca (DZ)
13:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:15 Sanaa, Jeddah (YV)
13:25 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Dubai (EK)
14:25 Ankara, Istanbul (TR)
14:45 Paris, Pardurji (FH)
22:45 Damascus (SY)
22:50 Paris, Damascus (AF)

Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 240 / 180
Cauliflower 140 / 100
Cora 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 280
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 180 / 150
Figs 500 / 200
Grape 1400 / 1000
Lemon 170 / 120
Mallow 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 100 / 50
Marrow (small) 220 / 180
Onion (dry) 240 / 200
Onion (green) 220 / 180
Okra 600 / 400
Orange 340 / 200
Pepper (hot) 220 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 300 / 250
Radicchio 200 / 150
Sage 650 / 500
Tomato 150 / 100
Tomatoes 170 / 120

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:00 Bangkok (LN)
14:45 Cairo (MS)
14:55 Jeddah, Sanaa (YV)
15:30 Dubai (EK)

Peace activists from the world flock to Iraq

By John Rogers
Reuter

BAGHDAD — With the countdown underway for war over Kuwait, the international peace movement has found a new and fertile home in Baghdad.

Much of the pacifism is pro-Iraq, but the movement includes scores of foreigners with no particular allegiance to either side.

Every day, a Japanese Buddhist monk sits in saffron robes opposite the American embassy in Baghdad, beating a peace drum.

A Japanese expert has been flying kites for peace and American Indian chiefs have smoked a peace pipe to head off the threat of war between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

Fifty-five Westerners have taken up residence in tourist bungalows on an island in the River Tigris and are calling themselves "The World Peace and Friendship Camp."

They include seven pacifists who want to set up camps on either side of the border in the war zone to stand between the rival armies.

Veteran British peace campaigner Pat Arrowsmith said

the group was still awaiting permission from Iraq and remained hopeful. About 300 people had volunteered to join the camps, she added.

With Christmas approaching, dozens of wives of British, American, Japanese and other Western men held in Iraq are flocking to Baghdad to see their husbands, bring Christmas gifts and seek their release.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has promised to free groups of foreigners over three months from Dec. 25. Christmas day. He has released hundreds in response to appeals from peace envoys or relatives, but an estimated 2,000 are banned from leaving Iraq. 500 of them held at strategic sites to deter attack.

Raphael Bidawid, Chaldean patriarch of Babylon and head of the Chaldean Church, told Reuters the aim was not to make a statement of support for the Iraqi government.

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1990 3



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Tuesday receives a Kuwaiti popular delegation (Petra photo)

Regent receives Kuwaiti delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Tuesday met with a Kuwaiti popular delegation currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of several Arab countries.

Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on the efforts Jordan has made before and after the onset of the Gulf crisis to ensure an Arab settlement to the crisis and prevent any complications that might arise as a result of the Arab skies."

The delegation members lauded the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to solve the crisis peacefully and voiced conviction that Jordan could play an important role in finding a formula capable of ensuring an honourable solution to the crisis and in averting an eventual catastrophe if war was to break out.

Also Tuesday, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyan received

the delegation and reviewed with them the Gulf crisis.

Arabiyan warned that consequences of any hostilities against Iraq would not only pose danger to Iraq but to the whole Arab Nation.

He stressed that expanding the base of dialogue and negotiations within an Arab context would add to the strength of the Arab Nation and would enable it to "dwarf this summer cloud from the Arab skies."

The delegation members lauded Jordan's pan-Arab stand and voiced pride in His Majesty King Hussein's honourable stand. It also, stressed that if "there is any glimmer of hope for solving the Gulf crisis, then it should be through King Hussein."

The Kuwaiti delegation will be holding a press conference at the Plaza Hotel this morning before departing Amman to resume their tour of a number of Arab capitals.

Jordan honours Ortega

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday reviewed with the visiting former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega the Gulf crisis and its reflections on the world countries, as well as Jordan's role in finding a peaceful settlement to it.

Prince Hassan also reviewed with him the Palestine question and its dimensions.

The Crown Prince decorated Ortega with Jordan's Al Kawakib Medal of the First Order, which His Majesty King Hussein had conferred upon him.



Woman martyred by Israeli soldiers

AMMAN — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine distributed this photograph of the late Fayzeh Ahmad Ismail Mafarjeh who was shot and killed by Israeli troops Saturday as she tried to stab a policeman near Jerusalem's old city.

Fayzeh, who was born in the village of Licya in 1962, had been working for the front since 1986.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of 39 paintings by Iraqi artist Hamid Muhammad Ali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre.

DIALOGUE

- Dialogue via satellite on "Government Support for Science and Technology" at the American Centre 3:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- Lecture entitled "Work and Revolution in the Arab Theatre" by Dr. Abdul Latif Aqel at the Royal Cultural Centre 4:00 p.m.
- Lecture, in French, entitled "Qui le feu soit... et la cuisine fut" by Madame Flavia Romero at the French Cultural Centre 6:00 p.m.

Signs of thaw seen in Jordanian-Saudi relations

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In what appears to be an improvement in Saudi-Jordanian relations, Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia has received an entry visa to the Kingdom but he denies being told to return to his post.

"No one has asked me to return to Saudi Arabia," Ambassador Naser Al Barayneh said Tuesday. But he refused to comment on why he had applied and received a Saudi entry visa from the Saudi Embassy in Amman.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Mutassem Bilbeisi confirmed that the ambassador, who was recalled nearly three months ago, had received an entry visa but said that there had been no decision as to when he will return to the Saudi capital.

"It is just an entry visa. There has been no decision yet," Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times. "We hope relations will improve and (whatever helps the situation) it always helps to

have an ambassador (in Riyadh)," he said.

Relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia were strained after Amman criticised the presence of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, and Jordanian popular sentiments heavily in support of Iraq in the Gulf standoff emerged.

In retaliation, Riyadh cut oil supplies to the Kingdom, banned Jordanian produce and expelled Jordanians working there. Saudi Arabia also stopped issuing entry visas to Jordanians and complicated procedures for renewing work and residency permits for Jordanian expatriates.

Batayneh was recalled in protest at Riyadh's decision to close the military, culture and labour sections at the embassy and cut the number of Jordanian diplomats to 10.

Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Mohammad Fahd Al Isa was also recalled shortly after Batayneh returned and the Saudi embassy reduced its diplomatic staff to 10.

Saudi Charge D'affaires

Abdul Rahman Al Nasser refused to comment on Batayneh's visa or on whether the Saudi ambassador would return to Amman.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials have repeatedly said that differences over approaches to a solution to the Gulf crisis should not strain relations between Arab countries.

Analysts see an improvement in relations, especially after King Hussein visited Oman, who currently heads the Gulf Cooperation Council. Oman is believed to be playing a role in the improvement of Jordanian expatriates.

Yousef Ben Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, visited Amman last month and delivered a message from Sultan Qaboos Ben Said to King Hussein. In remarks to the media, the envoy strongly refused suggestions that Jordan and Oman were planning a Gulf peace initiative. The refusal gave rise to speculation that Oman was playing a role in efforts to improve relations between Jordan and the Gulf Arab states.



PRINCE HASSAN RECEIVES NAKA-

JUMA: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima and the delegation accompanying him. Prince Hassan and the U.N. officials discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and WHO within the context of the regional plan being

implemented by the organisation in the Eastern Mediterranean countries. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Mohammad Abdou Al Zaben and Interior Ministry Secretary-General Salameh Hammoud. On the WHO side it was attended by Hussein Jezairi, WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean, and senior WHO officials.

Arabiyat tours Tafileh agricultural projects, pledges help to farmers

TAFILEH (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Suliman Arabyat Tuesday made a field tour of the Tafileh Governorate, inspecting agricultural projects and talking to farmers and ministry officials working in Tafileh.

"A plan has been worked out by a joint team representing the ministry and the government-appointed Food Security Committee on utilising state-owned land for the production of wheat, barley and sheep and breeds bees. This project is being financed through a special government fund which offers interest-free loans to people to buy implements and to develop lands," the minister pointed out.

To help reduce the losses this year, the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPSCO) has bought 70,000 tonnes of tomatoes for processing into tomato paste, the company is buying a large part of the citrus fruits for processing, and will set up a new tomato processing plant in the northern badia region and a dairy plant in the Irbid Governorate, the minister said.

"We did not establish intensive agricultural production of cucumbers, tomatoes, marrows and other products in the Jordan Valley for the consumption of Jordanians alone, but plans had been made to export the products to the Arab region which had formed a very good market for Jordan over the past years," said Arabyat.

The ministry's aim in leasing state-owned land for nominal fees is to increase cereal production and at the same time find work for many job-seekers.

The minister lauded the work of a local drought committee which has been conducting maintenance work on water springs and canals and planting forest and fruit trees.

At the outset of the tour, Arabyat heard a briefing by the Tafileh governor about the government's needs of agricultural services and water supplies as well as veterinary drugs.

Accompanied by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghabsheh and French ambassador to Jordan, the minister of agriculture toured Al Tawaneh and Al Hasa agricultural stations and a nursery for reproducing forest tree saplings for the Tafileh Governorate.

Arabyat's tour followed a statement to the local journalists about the general agricultural conditions in Jordan and the ministry's plans to address the damages done to the farmers by the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's direct losses in agriculture, resulting from the Gulf crisis, are estimated at JD 105 million annually and these are incurred mainly because the Saudi Arabian markets have been closed to Jordan's products, according to Arabyat.

The Jordanian government is currently trying to contact the Saudi authorities for reopening their markets to Jordanian products, but so far it has received no favourable reply, the minister said during a meeting with Jordanian journalists at the Jordan News Agency, Petra, headquarters in Amman.

Arabyat noted that the roles of permanent and temporary committees had been defined and that the council would set up a legal office to give advice on legal issues.

British women defy government, go to Baghdad to obtain release of relatives

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thirty determined British women are gathering in Amman to visit Baghdad, in defiance of their government's advice, to secure the release of their loved ones who are held back in Iraq as deterrent against attack.

"Let us bring our husbands, fathers and sons home for Christmas," is the objective of the group, said Gilli Battersby of Lincoln, whose husband Peter, an engineer, is among the hundreds of foreigners who are held at Iraqi strategic sites.

Battersby herself was one of the thousands of "guests of Iraq" until September when she flew out of Baghdad after the Iraqi government allowed all European, American and Japanese women and children to leave.

Nine British women, who are following in the footsteps of 10 of their compatriots who secured the release of their husbands, brothers and sons with a visit to Baghdad last month, arrived here Monday led by Battersby. The group is waiting for another 21 women to join them before flying to the Iraqi capital Wednesday.

The Swiss delegation expressed readiness to supply the blood bank at the Hilal Hospital, which is run by the JNRCS, with supplies of blood.

returning with the hope that their direct intervention would be able to secure the release of their relatives.

"The children need their fathers, the wives need their husbands," Battersby said.

The whereabouts of their relatives is known, but all have had telephone contact for the past three months. The women have three-month visas but are hopeful that the Ministry of Information will take them to their loved ones and allow them to leave together in time for Christmas.

The group was bitter about the lack of help from the British authorities. "The government did not help us at all," said Battersby. "On the contrary they tried to discourage us from going to Baghdad."

Margaret Fowler of Inverness, Scotland, told how she had to sell possessions in order to raise the money needed to cover the expensive trip.

The women were very tense and particularly worried about their children left in Britain. "Many of the children who were in Kuwait for their summer holidays at the time of the invasion are so traumatised that they have been on tranquillisers since then," said Fowler.

The women, who are carrying with them tins of powdered milk for babies as well as Christmas

gifts, have no guarantee of returning with their husbands or of meeting with the Iraqi president.

The Iraqi ambassador in London is hoping that we will get a meeting with Saddam Hussein," said Battersby.

"The British government has let us down terribly; we're going on our own... to try to sort our own problems out there. We cannot rely on the British government and the British embassy," Battersby told the Jordan Times.

In contrast, she said, the Iraqi embassy helped the group. "He (the ambassador) has been excellent. He's been very helpful."

The group wants negotiations. "No blood in 1991. Talk peace." They were pleased that Edward Heath, a former British prime minister, and Tony Benn, a Labour Member of Parliament, had ignored the government's advice, and visited Iraq and secured the release of many British nationals.

"They don't want us to go but we're not taking any notice of the British government any more," Battersby said.

The government told the women not to go but gave no reason except to say that they are "going against the government."

The group is expecting no help from the British embassy in Baghdad, "and we're not even going to ask for it."

Jordan Times

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Alternative to diplomacy

THE KUWAITI popular delegations touring various Arab capitals can perform an important role in bridging the gap between the two Arab camps on the Kuwaiti conflict. With official Arab diplomacy on the Gulf crisis on hold, the Kuwaiti delegation can act as a catalyst to fill the vacuum created by such frozen inter-Arab contacts on the grave crisis facing our world. If there is anything missing in this honourable mission it is the absence of Baghdad on the list of Arab capitals that the Kuwaiti delegations intend to visit. As the genesis of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait can be traced to official disputes between the two countries, involving the people of Kuwait in the search for an equitable settlement between the two sides can go a long way to defuse the crisis.

With even Washington seeking to talk with Baghdad, there can be no justification whatsoever why the pro-U.S. Arab camp should continue to shun negotiating with Iraq. The first U.N. Security Council resolution on the Kuwaiti conflict called for such a dialogue between Kuwait and Iraq and that international request is still binding on both parties. The Kuwaiti popular delegation, like the one visiting Jordan now and others which are going elsewhere, can play the catalyst role of bringing other Arab governments to the negotiating table with the Iraqi side and a visit to Baghdad would provide the very opportunity needed to realize that goal.

This leads one to conclude that there are hardly any disputes or conflicts between the Arab peoples wherever they may be. All existing Arab conflicts are first and foremost among governments and leaderships. The more the Arab peoples take their destinies into their own hands, the faster and more effective would be the opportunities to resolve them. In the final analysis, it is the absence of operational democracy in the Arab World that is at the root of the continuing inter-Arab conflicts and disputes. Seen against this background, the symbolic significance of the ongoing Kuwaiti popular delegations' visits to several Arab countries goes beyond the immediate question of Kuwait and the brewing Gulf crisis. It touches on the heart of the matter in the Arab Order and the need to accelerate the process of awarding the Arab peoples the right and opportunity to speak out on the main issues affecting their lives and future.

Here in Jordan the Kuwaiti team's talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday and Tuesday also offered another valuable occasion to understand the true position of Jordan on the Gulf crisis. Unlike some Kuwaiti officials who went as far as professing willingness to devastate even their own country in order to take it back Jordan has called for the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait and Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in a same manner and within an Arab context. Moreover, Amman's position against the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia and in favour of Kuwaiti sovereignty and territorial integrity are clearly not mutually exclusive. We do hope that our Kuwaiti brothers did get the right message from their visit here. Simply put, it is that only a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis will do. War, our Kuwaiti brothers have to understand, is a totally unacceptable option as far as we are concerned.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday reminded readers that America's deployment of forces in the Gulf was not intended as a means of evicting the Iraqis from Kuwait nor for restoring Al Sabah family to their rule, but rather to destroy an Arab country and liquidate the Iraqi military might. America's intentions, which the Arabs realised right from the start, were openly revealed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when he announced that the only reward to Iraq is to save it from an American military strike, if Baghdad accepts a dialogue with Washington which could settle the problem the paper noted. Indeed Washington's plans to strike the Iraqi military force and offer a good service to Israel started at the moment the Iran-Iraq war ended, with Iraqi forces coming out victorious, the paper stressed. It said that Washington achieved part of its objectives by occupying the oil fields, by intimidating the Arab Gulf states, and by deploying its forces on Arab land, but it also displayed its underhand dealings to the whole world. Furthermore, the paper noted, President Bush has now announced Washington's desire to open a dialogue with Baghdad regardless of the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 which calls for a direct Iraq-Kuwait dialogue to solve the issue. Washington has also been keen on preventing France and the Soviet Union and also the Arab League from succeeding in their own initiatives to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, and so it was quick to declare that it won't attack Iraq if it accepts the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait, the paper noted. It said that it is now hoped that the international community would realise the dimensions of the American conspiracy against an Arab country and it hoped that the Arabs who had supported Washington in its scheme's would finally realise the danger, and adopt a different attitude.

Once again the opportunity presents itself to the Arab states to assume their role of settling the Gulf crisis in the light of the new developments and in the wake of President Bush's initiative to open a dialogue with Iraq, says a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Abdal Rahim Ouzai believes that the margin of hope for peace is gradually widening now and the chances of war are almost equal to those of peace, thus opening the door for the Arab leaders to make a move towards settling the Arab Gulf issue. Of course such prospects are not to the taste of the Israelis who had hoped that a war in the Gulf would destroy Arab military might. But if that is Israel's attitude, it should not be copied by Arab leaders, because a Muslim leader must by no means copy the attitude of an enemy and turn against another Arab leader and instigate the United States to launch war on Iraq, the writer stresses.

Ecopolitical Forum

Bush's initiative: Countdown to peace or war

STRANGE enough, the international markets (of oil, money and stocks in particular) reacted pretty calmly to Security Council Resolution 678 which authorised the use of force against Iraq and to the absolute rejection of the resolution by Iraq. They should not; the only plausible explanation to this reaction is that the markets were already tipped, one way or another, of the peace trends underlying the highly charged world atmosphere and the very tense international relations. However, the war "ultimatum" implicit in the resolution has 45 days to expire and this is quite a long period; the markets still have plenty of time to react forcefully. And react they will if the diplomatic option does not start to work soon.

When he announced his overture to open talks with Iraq, Mr. Bush started, for the first time since Aug. 2, to act like a statesman rather than the arrogant emperor of the world. (if his overture was made in good faith which is not a small "if"). Mr. Bush's gravest mistake or miscalculation was his continuous insistence on the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Such withdrawal is worse than a complete military defeat in the battlefield and no leader would accept it, least of all one of the calibre of President Saddam.

Besides, the stipulation of unconditional withdrawal ignores the fact that there has been a dispute and there were causes which made it burst into the form of violent confrontation and military occupation. Unconditional withdrawal means leaving the reasons behind the dispute intact. If Mr. Bush were in President Saddam's

boots, he would not withdraw unconditionally and would shrug off any threats of war, be they real or otherwise, not excluding Resolution 678.

Mr. Bush's initiative is as very good reason to celebrate. But wait a minute! If the American president wants only to reiterate his unconditional withdrawal through other means, personally to Tareq Aziz and indirectly through James Baker, his initiative will be a waste of time and effort and, practically, a countdown to war. The American president has already spoken his mind out very loudly and repeatedly on this bizarre issue of unconditional withdrawal, but so has President Saddam. There is no noble point in one additional replay.

It is only when Mr. Bush discharges his load of the unconditionality clause and of the desire to "punish" President Saddam and when he abandons that most unproductive idea of "no reward for the aggressor" that his initiative will be a real countdown to peace. What is at stake is the world and regional peace. The question now is not basically one of aggression and aggressors.

The so-called invasion of Kuwait was a violent manifestation of a dispute which was not addressed properly. And no matter whose mistake that was in the past, the overriding concern in the present must be to remedy the root causes of that conflict. This will have to be done by negotiations if the solution is not to be self-defeating. And self-defeating a military option will be, simply because, as everybody knows, it will create many more problems than it may solve. To quote His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan "war would unleash hatreds that would extend well beyond the Arab-Israeli syndrome and irreparably hurt Western and American interests in the Islamic World." Add to that the destruction of at least Kuwait and possibly Iraq and the resulting power vacuum in the area.

The day before he announced his initiative, Mr. Bush started to talk about the recession symptoms which began to plague the American economy and to rightly trace them back to the Gulf crisis. This was encouraging because it denoted that he started to realise and admit the sort of disastrous consequences of an escalation in the Gulf crisis and the global economic dimensions of a military flare up.

A diplomatic solution based on the tackling of the root causes of the crisis is not only in the best interests of all Arab parties including Kuwait, but also serves the United States' vital interests, its economy and its president himself. It better enhances the cause of the conceived new world order. As we mentioned in an earlier article, no Arab leader is intrinsically hostile to the USA. Arabs and their leaders have every reason to befriend the Americans. What they want, and insist on, is dignity, mutual respect and, of course, their occupied lands.

To sum up the situation, Bush's initiative is a courageous act of statesmanship if it is not designed to camouflage a trick or a manoeuvre, especially if he understands a peaceful solution as one leading to imposing an unconditional withdrawal but not through war. My impression is that he does and therefore it is too early to celebrate anything.

Mini-summit

(Continued from page 1)

conference on the Middle East could be held.

Iraq told the U.N. Monday that the Palestinian people must have a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza, with Jerusalem as its capital, before any other Mideast peace questions can be dealt with.

"The first question is Palestine," Iraqi delegate Adnan Maik told the General Assembly.

"Palestine comes first, Palestine comes second and Palestine comes third," he vowed.

British Prime Minister John Major said Tuesday that Iraq need not fear attack provided it withdrew unconditionally from Kuwait, restored the legitimate government and released foreigners.

But in his first significant speech since replacing Margaret Thatcher as premier last Wednesday, Major said there could be no question of making a deal with Baghdad.

"There can be no question of negotiations, concessions, partial solutions or linkage to other issues," Major told members of his ruling Conservative Party.

He was speaking after meeting Washington's most senior military officer, General Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who has master-minded the multinational military operation confronting Iraq.

Major said Britain supported Bush's offer of talks with Iraq as a demonstration that a peaceful solution was still possible.

But it was up to Iraq to seize the opportunity provided by Bush, Major said.

British Defence Secretary Tom King told parliament Western and Arab allies confronting Iraq aim for a quick victory if peace overtures fail and war breaks out over Kuwait.

King said the United States, Britain, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were sending reinforcements to the Gulf to make certain the allies had the strength to overcome Iraq.

Ministers

(Continued from page 1)

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, defence ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance met Tuesday to review a collective strategy in the stand-off with Iraq.

They reviewed a report on Iraq's military forces that outlined the threat posed by its armaments, especially its arsenals of Soviet-designed Scud missiles, a Gulf source said.

Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan, meanwhile, warned Baghdad that the demand for an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait is categorical.

"There is no room for manœuvring or scheming on the part of Iraq. It has to pull out from Kuwait, no matter how long that takes," said the Saudi minister at a majlis with a large number of citizens whom he received Monday night.

"If Iraq expresses its intention to withdraw from Kuwait, we can discuss the modalities. There is a territorial dispute and a financial dispute... some good geographers have already studied what could be the shape of frontiers that you have to admit, are mostly very recent... there is matter for discussion," the French minister said.

A text of Chevenement's interview with the private channel 5 network was made available Tuesday.

Developing French President Francois Mitterrand's Sept. 24 statement that "everything would become possible" if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, Chevenement said in Monday night's programme: "If there is a chance to avoid war, we must grasp it."

Chevenement, criticised some in France adopting a dovish line towards Baghdad, said that after Iraq's withdrawal, a U.N. peacekeeping force could be sent to the region and an international tribunal of Warba and Bubiyan.

Prospect of talks eases impasse; however, obstacles remain

By John Rogers
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Neither side in the Gulf crisis wants war, but a chain of incomprehension remains an obstacle on the path to successful peace talks. Western diplomats in the Iraqi capital said on Sunday.

They said the prospect of dialogue had opened a crack in the impasse over Iraq's four-month-old occupation of Kuwait, but the negotiating positions of the two sides left a wide gap to be bridged.

Concessions were needed from both sides — on the Palestinian issue from Washington and on Kuwait from Baghdad — to avert war, the diplomats said.

U.S. President George Bush proposed talks with Iraq on Friday. He asked Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to visit Washington first and suggested U.S. Secretary of State James Baker should meet Saddam Hussein in Baghdad later.

Iraq faces a deadline of Jan. 15, set by the United Nations Security Council, to quit Kuwait or face attack by a U.S.-led multinational force massed in Saudi Arabia to drive it from the emirate.

"The mere offer of face-to-face talks has loosened the logjam and raised expectations of a peaceful settlement. But there is still quite a Gulf in comprehension about what the talks will consist of," a Western European diplomat said.

The United States insists the talks with Iraq will not be negotiations and will amount to a final direct appeal to Saddam to quit Kuwait.

Iraq wants a dialogue encompassing other Middle East issues. "Palestine and other occupied lands will be at the forefront of the issues dealt with in any dialogue," said

a statement from Iraq's leadership accepting Bush's proposal for talks.

Neutral diplomats see the Palestinian issue as a key area in which the United States will have to make some movement if Saddam is to be given a

"statement from Kuwait, completely or in part, and to release more than 2,000 Westerners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait and regarded by their governments as hostages.

Saddam has shown no sign that he is prepared to withdraw his army, but diplomats believe that with talks in the offing, he may be open to argument and compromise.

Because Washington rejects linkage between a Kuwait withdrawal and the Palestinian issue, the scope for open bargaining is limited. The public positions of both sides, aimed at domestic audiences, are expected to remain tough.

But one diplomat said: "I think they are both in a position to make concessions once the talks start."

The nature of the talks could influence their outcome. Iraq has sought clarification of Bush's statement that envoys from U.S. partners in the Gulf force would be present at his talks with Aziz.

It would be in Iraq's interests to expand the talks to have them include broader issues than Kuwait, diplomats believe. At the very least, one said, "if expectations are rising ever so slightly, it would be hard for the Americans to attack."

Concessions from the Iraqi side would have to include at least a commitment to withdraw from Kuwait.

They said gestures could influence their outcome. Iraq has sought clarification of Bush's statement that envoys from U.S. partners in the Gulf force would be present at his talks with Aziz.

It would be in Iraq's interests to expand the talks to have them include broader issues than Kuwait, diplomats believe. At the very least, one said, "if expectations are rising ever so slightly, it would be hard for the Americans to attack."

'The lucky giant'

By Neda Starcevic
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Helmut Kohl's re-election campaign showed the German chancellor in a new, self-assured style: more elegantly dressed, relaxed, a better speaker.

And the crowds were bigger, too, giving Kohl more enthusiastic receptions than ever in his eight years as chancellor.

Having delivered the unification of East and West Germany in record time, Kohl had been heavily favoured all along to win a third four-year term.

But in the last four weeks of the campaign, the 60-year-old Kohl still made 28 campaign appearances, doing what he likes best: Working the crowds and winning elections.

One of the last was in southern Germany in Offenburg, pushing his wheelchair-bound interior minister, Wolfgang Schaeuble, onto the podium.

Schaeuble barely survived an assassination attempt in October and the gesture was vintage Kohl, a move that would strike the hearts of ordinary Germans.

But it was not only electioneering. Kohl was deeply moved by Schaeuble's ordeal and had tears in his eyes when he had visited the bedside of his trusted minister and possible successor.

In Chemnitz, in former East Germany, before speaking at a campaign rally, Kohl stopped at a local inn to have coffee and banter with the owners.

These are the times he says he likes the best, mingling with ordinary people, when he feels like a "farmer at the plough. You can smell the earth."

Kohl became chancellor in October 1982, when a switch of coalition alliances enabled him to form a government at the head of his Christian Democratic Union. He was confirmed in national elections in 1983 and 1987.

At first he was regarded as a blunder-prone provincial politi-

cian who spoke with a distinct local accent. But Kohl has risen to the status of a respected international statesman, leader of a country that will play a political role finally equal to its economic might.

"In many fields of politics, we are in a leading position in Europe and in the world," Kohl said recently.

Often said in the past to be slow in making decisions, Kohl seized the historic opportunity presented with the collapse of East Germany's communist government and the fall of the Berlin Wall a year ago.

"I like to be underestimated, I've managed very well for 30 years by being underestimated," Kohl likes to say.

His whirlwind, relentless drive to achieve quick unification paid off when Germany became one fully sovereign state, on Oct. 3, with Kohl as chancellor.

His new image is reflected by tattered, double-breasted suits and the virtual disappearance of Kohl jokes.

Cartoons used to depict Kohl floating in outer space while sides grappled with problems, or flipping coins to make decisions. Now the 6-foot-5 chancellor is more likely to be depicted as a towering figure towering over the German landscape, as the news weekly *Der Spiegel* showed him in a pre-election cover story: "The Lucky Giant."

DECEMBER 5
Abdalla M
r Wa

War as sketched by physicians seen as a picture of a nightmare

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — A one-megaton nuclear bomb aimed at Baghdad would kill more than 1 million people and leave an equal number to suffer the agonies of burns, radiation and shivers of metal and glass flying at up to 600 miles per hour. With medical facilities stripped to a bare minimum in the aftermath of a nuclear blast, thousands of civilians would die before they could be given even the simplest of aid.

This is the nightmare sketched by 40 physicians from Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries who met recently in Rome to discuss the Gulf crisis. Using the explosion of a one-megaton nuclear bomb as a model, they have detailed the immediate consequences of a nuclear war erupting in Iraq.

The doctors, from Algeria, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, are all members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), a movement with 200,000 affiliates in 69 countries. In 1985 the group won the Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution to easing tension at the height of the Cold War. This time, say doctors, the threat is no less serious. "We believe that nuclear war may be imminent in the Gulf, and that dialogue is therefore essential," said William Monning, executive director to IPPNW, which is based in the United States city of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Monning said that the one-megaton bomb scenario is conservative. The reality, he claimed, could be a great deal worse. "A bomb that size would have eight times the impact of Hiroshima, which killed 100,000 people, but it is a relatively small warhead by today's standards," he added. "By studying the infrastructure of a city, we are able to predict with some accuracy what would be the medical effects if a nuclear bomb were to be dropped there."

IPPNW doctors forecast that 1,050,000 people — 23 per cent of



Baghdad's population — would be wiped out instantly in a nuclear attack on the Iraqi capital. Another 1,280,000 — 27 per cent — would be seriously injured. Of Baghdad's 3,080 doctors, 770 would be killed and another 920 put out of action by blast and burn injuries.

"That would leave just 1,400 doctors to treat all 1,280,000 injured," said Monning. "If each surviving doctor spent 15 minutes with each patient, and worked 18 hours per day without a break, it would take almost two weeks for all the wounded to be seen for the first time. Clearly, during that time many people would die."

IPPNW officials said that they are planning to send a multina-

tional team of doctors to Baghdad, Tel Aviv, Cairo and Amman, Iraq has agreed to host such a visit, said Monning. "The idea would be for the doctors to appeal for the preservation of life," he said. "Our aim is to educate people about the non-survivability of nuclear war. Our doctors believe that is now a real possibility in the Gulf, and where there is no medical solution to a medical crisis, we maintain that prevention is the only remedy."

As members of a non-political organisation, the IPPNW physicians are reluctant to make judgments about the Gulf crisis, but they issued a blanket condemnation of the invasion of one coun-

try by another. They have urged all parties involved in the crisis to start talks under United Nations auspices.

In the meantime they have called for the removal of nuclear weapons from the area. The environmental organisation Greenpeace recently released figures showing that there are currently around 400 nuclear warheads deployed on British, French, Soviet and U.S. ships in the Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Mediterranean and the northern Indian Ocean. That estimate was confirmed by several former U.S. military officials who attended the meeting in Rome.

"We believe it would be catastrophic for mankind if this conflict became a nuclear war," said Monning. Delegations of doctors who went to the U.S. and Iraqi embassies in Rome received assurances from each side that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Even so, said Israeli doctor Hillel Shanks, the threat of a nuclear war starting by accident is a serious one. "For instance, if a chemical weapon was to be sent to Israel from Iraq, Israel might well respond with a nuclear attack," he said.

Even if nuclear conflict were to be avoided, the number of civilian casualties in a conventional attack would almost certainly be high, say the physicians. Iraq's large stock of chemical weapons threatens mostly civilians for whom there would be no escape.

"If the current situation turns to war, there will be massive numbers of both military and civilian dead and wounded," Monning said. "Everything suggests that the conflict would not be contained to just military engagement out in the desert. Any armed conflict is likely to end in a massacre of children, women and elderly people and in a mass destruction of houses, schools and hospitals and a heavy shortage of water and food supplies. Famine and epidemics will follow, and no medical response will be adequate for such an emergency." (WNL)

Ortega

(Continued from page 1)

preventing hostile acts by the more powerful industrialised countries from encroaching upon the sovereignty and the rights of the developing countries.

"We have many problems in Nicaragua and in Latin America, but we believe that the solution of our problems to a great extent depends on how things develop in this region," he said.

Ortega has said that the Gulf crisis is a manifestation of the North-South conflict and that a peaceful solution based on international law will be a victory to the South.

Ortega was given a standing ovation by enthusiastic students who crowded the auditorium and spilled over to the corridor. His remarks about the need for the Third World (the South) to unite to face a united North in order to assert the developing countries' rights were met with loud applause.

Students followed him outside the auditorium pressing him with questions and asking for his autograph. In their questions the students projected concern about the future of the Third World in the light of the dominance of the United States as the leading superpower.

At one stage when Ortega described the Soviet Union's position in the Gulf as "sad... for the Soviet Union is no longer the influential superpower it was," students responded with loud applause in agreement.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

patrol boat's order to stop. Rifle fire from at least three air force helicopters forced the boat to return to the beach near the Dair Al Balah Palestinian camp, witnesses said. Ground forces shot dead one man who tried to flee and arrested the others.

Residents at first hurled stones at the low-flying helicopters,

thinking the boatmen were guerrillas. The helicopters dropped teargas and concussion grenades to try to disperse the demonstrators.

But witnesses said demonstrators went home when they understood from relatives of those in the boat that they were drug smugglers.

A Palestinian guerrilla was killed and an Israeli soldier wounded Tuesday in a clash inside Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone," security sources said.

They said the clash happened when an Israeli patrol spotted Palestinian guerrillas who had infiltrated the zone. The sources would not give further details.

In Beirut, Palestinian sources said the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was behind Tuesday's infiltration attempt.

Soviets

(Continued from page 1)

Bob Hawke said Australia was stepping up its role in the Gulf. He said U.N. sanctions against

Iraq did not appear to be working and a destroyer, frigate and a supply ship were being put under U.S. operational control.

In Baghdad, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra Tuesday called U.S. President George Bush a liar and warned him that a war in the Gulf would not be a backyard picnic like Panama or Grenada.

"Bush spoke a few days ago about the aggression he intended to launch against Iraq and, being a liar, he claimed that war with Iraq would be quick and different from the Vietnam war.

"If Bush misunderstands, the American people surely understand that war with Iraq means throwing the U.S. forces into an annihilating, losing and costly military adventure," the paper said.

Bush, in a surprise initiative following U.N. approval of the war resolution, invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to Washington for talks and said Secretary of State James Baker would visit Baghdad.

Iraq accepted the offer. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Tuesday a massive

build-up of American troops in the Gulf will be complete by the mid-January U.N. deadline authorising the use of military force against Iraq.

Bush Cheney said at the start of a two-day visit to Poland that no decision had yet been made in Washington on whether to go to war.

He was speaking with reporters accompanying him on the trip, his first to Eastern Europe where the Warsaw Pact is crumbling.

Senior defence officials with Cheney on the flight from Washington said the United States would have more than 400,000 soldiers, airmen and sailors in the Gulf region by mid-January — around the 15th," Cheney told reporters.

"Some will be there sooner than that, but I would think that the bulk of the additional deployment should be completed by the middle of January."

The United States now has more than 240,000 troops in the Gulf region. Bush is sending over 150,000 more as part of the international force arrayed against Iraq.

100 years later, Japan struggles with a democracy that works

By Michael Hirsh
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan has a parliament that rarely decides things, a leader who rarely leads and an entrenched bureaucracy that is rarely challenged, but its unique brand of democracy seems to work.

The diet, as the parliament is known, survived a powerless infancy and militarist-dominated middle age to reach its 100th anniversary in November but members and analysts say full maturity as a democratic forum remains elusive.

Western notions of social equality and Japanese notions of social hierarchy are still at war in Asia's oldest national legislature, and at the heart of Japan's conservative democracy.

"We believe it would be catastrophic for mankind if this conflict became a nuclear war," said Monning. Delegations of doctors who went to the U.S. and Iraqi embassies in Rome received assurances from each side that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Even so, said Israeli doctor Hillel Shanks, the threat of a nuclear war starting by accident is a serious one. "For instance, if a chemical weapon was to be sent to Israel from Iraq, Israel might well respond with a nuclear attack," he said.

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affluence and partly because of reforms during the postwar U.S. occupation that redistributed land and property.

The redistribution created a huge conservative constituency, the new landowners, and deprived the opposition socialist and communist parties of a natural underclass to represent.

Many of today's ruling oligarchs rose from humble families through sheer ability.

"The truth is that Japan, like the United States, has woven the threads of democratic political life — civil liberties, open elections, competitive politics and responsible government — into the fabric of the nation's social structure to create a stable political system that echoes universal values and behaviour while at the same time being utterly unique," Gerald Curtis, an expert on Japanese politics at Columbia University, wrote recently.

Some commentators say the best proof that Japan is becoming a true democracy is a new calm in public political debate.

Some experts were impressed by the collective yawn with which many Japanese treated recent constitutional debates of involvement in the Gulf and aspects of Emperor Akihito's enthronement.

That has led some to question how Japan, despite its economic eminence, can become a leader internationally. The issue gained currency during months of hesitant government manoeuvring with little result, over committing military personnel to the Gulf force arrayed against Iraq.

"This is one of the major problems facing politicians in Japan today," said Aichi, who sees no prospect of reforming the system soon.

Perhaps the strongest endorsement of Japanese democracy is that it seems to work.

Japanese sometimes say they have the largest middle class in the world.

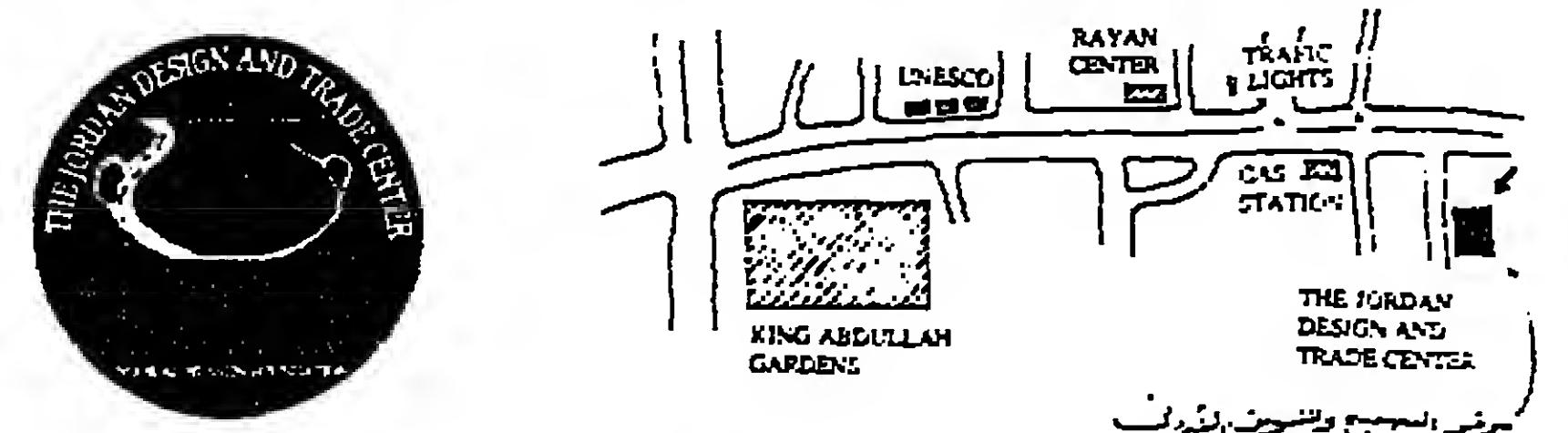
In government surveys, 90 per cent of those responding describe themselves as middle class. That is partly because of the nation's success, he said, "all those traits that were once vilified abroad, everyone now wants to imitate.

Japanese bureaucrats are an elite who attract graduates of the best universities. The profession's

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Maradona might retire before end of season

Reuter

DIEGO Maradona, the fiery Argentine soccer captain, has hinted he could leave Italian champions Napoli before the end of the season.

"The end is night," Maradona told Spanish television Monday night. "I want calm. I've put up with enough already."

Maradona, 30, has repeatedly clashed with Napoli officials this season, missing training sessions and twice refusing to travel with the team away matches.

Asked by Spain's Canal-Plus channel whether he was considering leaving Napoli before the end of the season, Maradona answered: "No contract is going to curtail my freedom."

Napoli replied on Tuesday by taking Maradona's own promotional company to court, arguing that what they called the star's tantrums had hit his earning power.

The club, who contribute towards Maradona's Dharma company in exchange for a share in its earnings, said they should be allowed to reduce the contribution because they expected a fall in profits.

A spokesman quoted club president Corrado Ferlaino as saying in his plea that "following Maradona's tantrums, Napoli believes the image has been devalued and that the profits will not be as previously forecast."

The club expect their share of Dharma's profits to fall by some six billion lire (\$5.3 million) between now and 1993, when their contract with the company — and with Maradona — comes to an end.



Diego Maradona

The club said they had entrusted their payments due until 1993 to a judge and asked him to seize them. A court is expected to hear both sides of the case within 10 days.

Speculation has been rife in the Italian press that Maradona might be considering a move to France, or even Japan, where there would be less pressure on him.

"I want to enjoy life with my family. I want to go back to Argentina for good," Maradona told Canal-Plus.

He also said he would not play for Argentina again.

"This is a clear decision. I'll be the number one fan of the Argentine side's next number 10," he said, referring to his position in the national team.

Maradona, on holiday at a friend's house in Madrid, was expected to return to Naples

Tuesday.
Elsewhere in Spain attention focused on Wednesday's first leg of the Supercup between league champions Real Madrid and Cup Holders Barcelona.

But both teams regard this confrontation as having a psychological importance on the league title race.

"Our executive committee will meet Wednesday and the only thing on the agenda is doping and how to stop it," said Lutz Nebenthal, a spokesman for the German Athletic Federation (DLV).

The meeting comes after two German news magazines published articles alleging that leading athletes and swimmers in both the former East and West Germanys, including some world record holders and Olympic champions, had used banned anabolic steroids for years.

On Monday, one former East German swimming star admitted taking drugs and a West German athletics coach, named in the allegations, resigned.

The allegations have also worried two of the DLV's top sponsors, IBM and Daimler-Benz, who have hinted that if German sports do not clean up their own house, millions of marks worth of backing might be withdrawn.

Both the magazines, Der Spiegel and Stern, named the sportsmen and women involved in systematic drug use.

Later this week, Stern said it would publish records from the former East Germany showing that scientists were carrying out human experiments aimed at improving sporting performance, of prime importance in the prestige-giving in the bottom half of the table.

English first division club

Sunderland have pulled out of a proposed £300,000 (\$580,000) move for Yugoslav international defender Slobodan Marovic.

Manager Dennis Smith has told Red Star Belgrade that he will not pursue his interest in the national team.

"There were one or two contractual details that we couldn't sort out," Smith said.

Germany to discuss doping allegations

BONN (R) — German athletics authorities, stunned by allegations that top athletes have used performance-enhancing drugs, hold a crisis meeting Wednesday to discuss doping in sport.

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Lothar Matthaeus

Matthaeus tops poll

LONDON (R) — Lothar Matthaeus, who captained West Germany to victory in this year's Soccer World Cup, has been named world player of the year in an annual British magazine poll.

World Soccer Magazine said in its December issue Matthaeus, who plays for Italian club Internazionale Milan, had collected 21.9 per cent of readers' votes to become the first German to win the award.

Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci of Juventus was second and Argentine captain Diego Maradona of Naples third.

Beckenbauer, now team chief

first division Marseille, polled 52.7 per cent of the votes. Costa Rica World Cup manager Bora Milutinovic was second and Argentina's Carlos Bilardo third.

West Germany were team of the year, ahead of European Cup

champions A.C. Milan and Cameroon, the surprise team of the World Cup.

Matthaeus tops poll

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's foreign-based players will once again be allowed to play for their country, a director of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) has said.

Security at the Olympics is a mammoth job that will dwarf efforts made for the 1982 Soccer World Cup and other major events held in Spain. The manpower drain will be compounded, since the Olympics coincide with the staging of a universal exposition in Seville.

The novelty of the Olympic operation is its scale, not its nature, security chief Cunado said. "It's the enormity of the operation that stands out."

The events themselves are to take place in four main areas in this traffic-congested city of nearly 4 million squeezed between a range of mountains and the Mediterranean Sea.

Salgado said midfielder Alemao and Teixeira, son-in-law of International Football Federation (FIFA) President Joao Havelange, traded hostilities over the World Cup.

The ban was imposed in Au-

gust, shortly before Falcao took charge of the national team. But since then, Brazil have played three games without winning and have not even managed to score a goal.

Most of the country's top play-

ers are abroad, having been driven out of their own country by a combination of low wages and the poor organisation of Bra-

zil's national game.

The lifting of the ban means

stars such as Careca of Italy's

Napoli and fellow striker Romario of Dutch first division PSV Eindhoven will once again eligible

to play for Brazil.

The CBF said it imposed the ban to give home-based players a chance to represent their country.

But news said the CBF was angry about the attitude of some foreign-based players in the

World Cup and felt they were too concerned with money.

Barcelona devising Olympic security plan

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — It could be a terrorist bomb or a hotel fire, a stadium collapse or mass food poisoning. The 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics are two years away, but security planners already are thinking about the worst-case scenario.

"Nothing has been forgotten or left to chance," Olympic security chief Victor Cunado said last week when he presented his operations plan during the first international symposium on Olympic security.

Cunado said the plan includes sections on construction standards, highway safety, civil defense and petty thievery. It talks about how to control territorial waters, airspace and overland frontiers. It even deals with submarine detection.

And, of course, it foresees the possibility of an attack by terrorists, a need underscored by the explosion of two small bombs Wednesday that damaged buildings just a few kilometers from the heavily guarded Pedralbes Palace, the site of the sympo-

sium.

But most importantly, say the experts, the plan is flexible.

"Security planning has to take into account what might happen next week, not what happened five years ago, because five years ago is passe now," said George Morrison, operations chief of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

"The Spaniards are very flexible and they've done a great deal of brainstorming, of giving thought to what is around them that could go wrong."

Morrison was at the two-day conference Wednesday and Thursday to offer advice based on his experience organising security for the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Participants included representatives from the host cities of every summer Olympics dating back to Tokyo 1964, along with experts from another 11 European countries.

FBI director William Sessions is planning to visit the Olympic site Dec. 8, Maples said.

The Soviet Union recently opened a consulate in Barcelona and will have at least one full-time intelligence officer, a Spanish official said.

Spanish officials have made

available few details of their security plan. But state secretary for security Rafael Vera said at least 1,500 Spanish police officers and civil guards would come to Barcelona to bolster security as the games approach.

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World Cup and felt they were too concerned with money.

ITF to decide if Agassi plays in Grand Slam Cup

LONDON (R) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has yet to decide whether to allow American Andre Agassi back into its Grand Slam Cup.

The world number four player originally signed to play in next week's \$6-million tournament, but then pulled out.

Last Friday he said he would reluctantly take part in the competition in Munich, because of the threat of being barred from one or more of next year's Grand

Slam tournaments for renegeing on his commitment.

But an ITF spokesman told Reuters the Grand Slam Committee had not decided whether to let him back in or call up Brad Gilbert to play in his place.

"The first question is whether it's more fair to move ahead with Brad Gilbert or hold Brad and let Andre back in," Bill Babcock said.

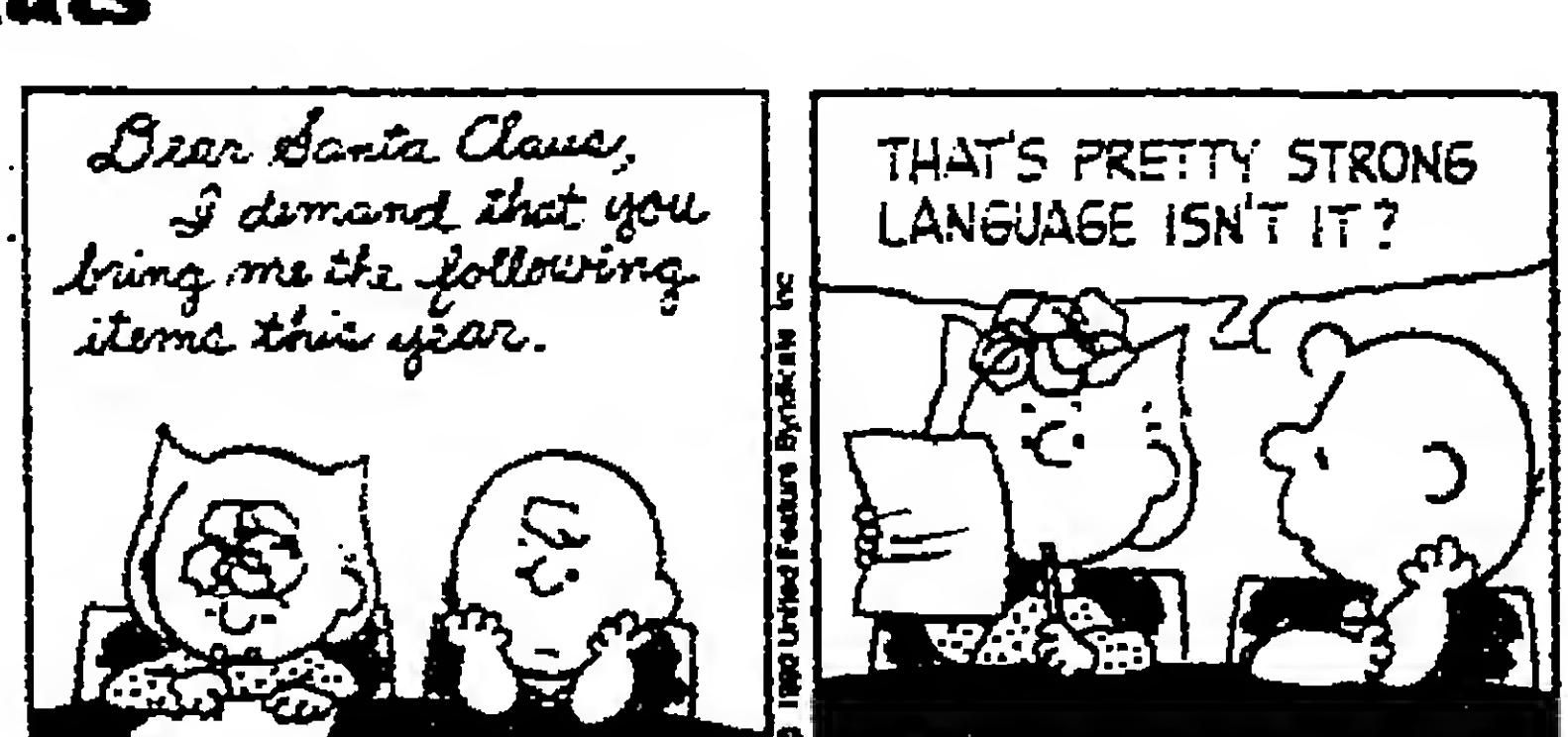
He said the committee would

decide this week.

Andy Capp



Peanuts



Andy Capp

Both vulnerable. South deals:

NORTH
♦ K 10 7 2
7 6 3
A Q 5
♦ A 9 4

WEST
Q 9 8 6 5
Q 8 4
10 9
8 7 3 2
♦ Q 3

EAST
K J 9 4
K J 9 3
K J 9 4
K J 10 8 6

SOUTH
A 4
A K J 7 5 2
10 6
7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East

1 - Pass 1 - Pass
2 - Pass 4 - Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Ever feel that you are a bridge star just waiting to be discovered? Cover the East-West hands with your thumbs and see how you fare on this play problem.

North's raise to four hearts is not a misprint. South's two-heart rebid in this sequence guarantees a six-card suit, and when your side has an eight-card major-suit fit, it is usually wise to play in a suit than in no

trump when your values consist largely of prime cards—aces and kings.

Did you take the diamond finesse at the first trick? If so, read no further—you have already flunked this test. Should the diamond finesse lose, you have given East the opportunity to shift to a club, which could place your contract in serious trouble.

You have surmounted the first hurdle if you rose with the ace of diamonds and led a trump from dummy. Did you finesse? If so, join the diamond finessers on the sidelines, for the same reasons they're warming the bench.

Correct is to rise with the king of trumps and cash the ace. Both defenders follow, and you can now virtually claim your contract. (You would still have chances if trumps were 4-1.) Cash the two high spades and lead the jack, discarding a diamond no matter who East does. All that remains is to take the ace of clubs at the first opportunity and discard a club on the ten of spades.

By refusing three finesses, you've held your losers to one trump, one spade and one club.

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Economy

OAPEC won't discuss Kuwait question-Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A senior Egyptian oil official Tuesday ruled out the possibility that Iraq might be expelled from an Arab petroleum organisation as punishment for invading Kuwait.

Mohammad Shawkat, adviser to oil minister Abdul Hady Kamal, said there is no plan for oil ministers of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries even to discuss the idea at their meeting in Cairo next Saturday.

"To begin with, this is not on the agenda," said Shawkat, who was a member of OAPEC's charter committee.

"Moreover, it's a political issue, and OAPEC's charter excludes politics. The organisation has economic objectives involving cooperation and policy coordination among its members."

Shawkat was commenting on speculation that Kuwait or other members of the 10-country group would suggest to the ministers that Iraq be expelled. There also have been reports that the ministers would consider moving the organisation's headquarters from Kuwait, which Iraq annexed on Aug. 8.

Such a suggestion might come before the ministers, Shawkat said. Iraq might want it moved to Baghdad to assert its sovereignty over Kuwait, or another member

may propose temporarily relocating OAPEC's headquarters because of its inability to function under Iraqi occupation.

"Again, this is not on the agenda, but someone may suggest it under the customary agenda item of other business," he said in an interview.

But he indicated that Egypt,

the meeting's chairman, would contest it as a double violation of the charter: the suggestion, at least if proposed by Iraq, would be political, and the charter specifies Kuwait as the organisation's home.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya founded OAPEC in 1968 partly to stimulate investment by member countries in each other's oil industries. In addition to the founders, it now includes Egypt, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Algeria.

Egypt has its own political motives to prevent either of the two reported subjects from carrying at the Cairo meeting.

It wants to show OAPEC acted illegally in suspending Egypt's membership after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. By keeping the headquarters in Kuwait, Cairo also could underscore its contention that the Arab League violated its political charter by suspending Egypt and

moving its charter-mandated Cairo headquarters to Tunis, Tunisia.

"OAPEC's action in expelling Egypt in 1979 was illegal because it violated the charter that excludes politics," Shawkat said. "Moving the headquarters also is a political question. The OAPEC charter specifies that Kuwait is the headquarters."

Cairo was readmitted to the oil group at a meeting in Kuwait last year and is the current chairman.

Shawkat said the agenda of the Cairo meeting includes a joint project for building a drydock in Algeria, a plan to develop an OAPEC training institute in Baghdad and the group's 1991 budget. He refused to disclose the proposed budget estimates.

He said two newly appointed oil ministers will attend the session for the first time: Yousef Bin Omeri Bin Yousef of the UAE and Rashed Salem Al Amreei of Kuwait.

Egypt's strong opposition to the Kuwait invasion badly strained their relations. But diplomatic ties were maintained de-

GATT trade talks deadlocked over subsidies

BRUSSELS (R) — World trade talks moved into a critical stage Tuesday because of a deadlock over how much to subsidise farmers which pits the EC against most of its global trading partners.

"Nothing has happened. We need a breakthrough today," Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Julius Katz told Reuters on the second day of a week-long ministerial meeting intended to wrap up the four-year Uruguay Round of trade talks.

Delegates to the 107-nation negotiations were unanimous in saying a breakthrough on farming was crucial in the first two days to avoid overall failure. On Monday the major players merely restated their positions.

Failure to agree on farm sub-

sides could threaten agreement on liberalising other areas of commerce and run the risk of a new round of protectionism at the very moment when the slowing world economy needs a boost, delegates believe.

Several members of the 14-nation Cairns Group of farm exporters have made it clear that without a solid agreement on cutting farm subsidies they would not be able to accept the results of the entire Uruguay Round, negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Philip Burdon, trade minister of Cairns member New Zealand, told the conference on Monday:

"After four years, the Cairns Group message seems to have sunk in — no agriculture, no

Uruguay Round."

The Cairns Group have been implying they're reaching the end of their patience," one trade official commented. "The hour of reckoning is drawing near."

Swedish Agriculture Minister Matt Hellstrom, who chaired an agriculture negotiating group on Monday evening, reported to a conference steering committee on Tuesday morning that there was so far no progress.

"The president (Hellstrom) said there was no new element at this particular moment," European Commission spokesman Nico Wegter said.

"At the moment there is nothing to talk about," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said, adding that farm exporters like Argentina and Brazil

were obviously becoming highly frustrated.

"The community was totally isolated (at Monday night's meeting)... we can't even have a discussion until the community shows a willingness to do something," Yeutter said.

The European Community (EC) has proposed a cut of 30 per cent in domestic farm subsidies from 1986 levels but is unwilling to commit itself to cuts in export subsidies and import barriers.

The Cairns Group and the United States, which contend that the EC is shutting them out of Europe and competing unfairly on other markets, want 75 per cent cut in internal support and import barriers and 90 per cent in export subsidies.

The blockage on agriculture

has held up progress in several other areas, including free trade in tropical products and clothing.

Alvaro Ramos, agriculture minister for Cairns member Uruguay, expressed alarm on behalf of 26 Latin American nations following the lack of progress in the farm meeting.

"We wasted two hours of the precious time we've got. Our countries wish to convey our alarm at the state of negotiations," he said.

Hellstrom was holding bilateral meetings with EC, U.S. and Cairns officials on Tuesday to see if there was any way out of the deadlock and would reconvene the agriculture negotiating group if there was a chance of movement, officials said.

North Cyprus court lifts injunction of Pelly Peck firms

NICOSIA (R) — A judge in North Cyprus cleared the way Tuesday for a British-led investigation into troubled fruits-to-electronics conglomerate Polly Peck's subsidiaries in the breakaway Turkish republic.

Judge Hassan Sozmenen lifted an injunction blocking access to the conglomerate's units in North Cyprus, where Polly Peck firms generate a third of the state's income.

The injunction had been granted to drought-hit local fruit growers who feared they would lose their livelihoods if British court-appointed administrators were allowed to probe companies built up to rag-to-riches Turkish-Cypriot Asil Nadir.

"The plaintiffs have withdrawn the injunction, the case is dismissed, there is no longer a block on information into Nadir's companies," he told Reuters at the Nicosia district court.

Polly Peck International PLC entered administration in October with debts of more than £1.3 billion (\$2.56 billion).

Riza Kivanc, the fruit growers' lawyer, said the North Cyprus injunction was withdrawn after Nadir assured them he would meet any losses

he lifting might cause.

In London on Monday, a bankruptcy court hearing was adjourned until January 7 to give Nadir time to arrange a mortgage on his assets so he can pay cash claims.

A collapse of Nadir's business empire would jeopardise thousands of jobs in the self-declared Turkish state, where one person in every 20 works for him.

More than 500 out of 9,000 Nadir employees in North Cyprus have been laid off and last week a financial source working for him said up to 3,000 jobs could be lost.

Polly Peck holdings in North Cyprus include three hotels, a construction company, a pharmaceutical firm, a shipping line and more than 60 per cent of citrus production.

Cyprus-born Nadir owns four newspapers, a bank, and a printing plant. His family runs Nobel Air, a small private airline, a tourism agency and a textile business.

Among Nadir projects to have been put on ice in North Cyprus is the half-built £25 million (\$49.18 million) Crystal Cove Hotel in the port of Kyrenia.

Nadir, who was not in court,

could not be reached for comment on the lifting of the injunction but British court-appointed administrator Richard Stone said last month the Turkish-Cypriot businessman was helping efforts to lift it.

Cyprus is going through its worst drought in 20 years and as a result citrus exports from the north will be cut by about a third from last year's 110,000 million tonnes.

But Michel Camdessus, managing director of the world monetary watchdog, urged industrialised countries not to forget developing countries when the four-year Uruguay Round of GATT talks winds up.

"We are able to support their efforts with appropriate financing. We can do that and have to do that," he said.

He said that the world's developed countries must first ratify an agreed 50 per cent increase in their financial obligations to the IMF.

The increases would bring the amount of capital underwritten to \$60 billion up to March 1993.

Camdessus said he was prepared to ask for further increases to offset the damage caused to developing countries' balance of payments by opening their markets to developed countries' services and goods.

IMF chief urges the rich to support the poor

BRUSSELS (R) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pledged on Tuesday to help soften the economic blow for the world's poorest countries if GATT nations agree this week to drop trade barriers.

"I urge the industrialised not to abandon developing countries in the middle of their crossing," he said.

He was speaking to reporters before addressing minister in Brussels to conclude the 107-nation Uruguay Round taking place under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The talks are aimed at reducing trade barriers and setting trading rules for the next century.

The 15-sector round has become bogged down by a squabble over how far and fast to cut farm subsidies.

Third World countries, who went to the talks four years ago with high hopes of gaining more open markets for their farm produce and textiles and earning more hard currency, say their special needs have been forgotten.

They are afraid industrialised countries will agree among themselves and forget their own needs.

Camdessus said failure of the GATT round would hit the world economy at a time when it is most vulnerable due to the crisis in the Gulf.

Ras Tannurah oil output reduced to half due to fire

DUBAI (R) — A fire at the world's biggest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia slashed output by nearly half, industry sources in the Gulf said Tuesday.

They said output at Ras Tannurah, just 260 kilometres south of Kuwait and a supplier of fuel for the multinational force confronting Iraq, had fallen by 230,000 barrels per day (bpd) to about 300,000.

"Production in one of the crude units is down, no one knows when it will start operating again," an executive based in Saudi Arabia said.

But industry sources said a loss of 35,000 bpd of aviation fuel for the multinational force could easily be made up from supplies elsewhere and would not affect the strike capability of more than 1,000 warplanes.

Saudi Arabian authorities said Friday's fire was caused by a leaking pipe but gave no other details. Three workers were injured.

Industry sources said one of the refinery's two crude processing units suffered major damage in the four-hour blaze — pumps were lost, pipes twisted, and the

main distillation column bent.

The damage cut the amount of crude oil entering the Gulf coast refinery by 230,000 bpd, reducing its output by the same amount.

Saudi oil officials declined to comment on the extent of the damage at the plant which had a capacity of 530,000 bpd.

It stepped up production to almost full capacity after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The U.N. trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait deprived the world oil market of about four million bpd.

Oil traders said the Saudi Arabian Refining and Marketing Co.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, December 4, 1990		Central Bank official rates
	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	666.0	664.0
Pound Sterling	1268.1	1275.1
Deutschmark	438.5	441.1
Swiss franc	512.8	515.9
French franc	129.7	130.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	493.4	496.4
Dutch guilder	388.8	391.1
Swedish crown	117.1	117.8
Italian lira (for 100)	58.4	58.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	212.6	213.9

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The British Council

GCE

Entries are now being accepted for the May-June 1991 General Certificate of Education Examination as from 10 December 1990. Bring with you an official identity document and one photograph.

Closing date: 24 December 1990
Registration Time: 09:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays are excluded.
Candidates are encouraged to register during that period.

TODAY AT CONCORD
Cinema Tel: 677420
Sylvester Stallone
LOCK UP
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

NIJOM
Cinema Tel: 675571
Kamal Al Shinnawi,
Iham Shahin, Farouq Al
Fishawi
IN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

RAINBOW
Cinema Tel: 625155
UP THE MILITARY
Show: 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA
Cinema Tel: 634144
ROOF TOPS
Show: 13:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA
Cinema Tel: 699238
Nadia Al Jundi & Farouq
Al Fishawi
DEATH SQUAD
Arabic Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Amman Transport and Municipal Development Project (Loan No. 2334 - Jo)
The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above loan to road maintenance equipment. Tender documents will be available as of Saturday, Dec. 8, 1990 for a non-refundable fee of JD 180, one hundred and eighty Jordanian dinars from:
Municipality of Greater Amman Tenders Department
P.O. Box 132
Amman-Jordan
Telex: 21968 AMCITY JO
Fax: 9626549426
Closing date for accepting the bids is 10:00 a.m. Monday Jan. 21, 1991 at same address mentioned above.
A certified check or a bank guarantee as a bid bond is a must for accepting the bids amounting to (5%) of the total bid value.

Gorbachev to maintain prime minister in leadership reshape

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev plans to maintain the post of prime minister in a reshaped Soviet leadership in which he will assume direct control over the government, the Interfax news agency reported.

The independent agency which has good official contacts said this would be part of proposals in creating his personal power being put to the country's parliament, the Supreme Soviet, by Gorbachev Tuesday.

There was no immediate indication who would fill the post but there have been increasing signs in the past few weeks that the present prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, would be retained despite the chaotic state of the country's economy.

The 61-year-old Ryzhkov, in the job since September 1985, has apparently moved to win support from Communist Party conservatives and the military establishment who are currently putting pressure on Gorbachev to rein in reform.

The government weekly Pravditsvremenny Vestnik Tuesday reported him as giving a ringing endorsement to the Soviet military-industrial complex during a visit last week to the Mari Republic where many defence plants are located.

Shuttle telescope unable to lock onto stars

HOUSTON (R) — Computer programmers Tuesday worked frantically but were unable to correct problems that have prevented telescopes aboard a U.S. space shuttle from providing a glimpse of the universe as it was billions of years ago.

"It's been a real zoo down here," said Ted Gull, chief scientist for the mission of shuttle Columbia.

The four telescopes that make up a \$148 million, 15-tonne observatory appeared to be working, but a complex tracking system designed to aim the telescopes failed.

The system is similar to one carried on another U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shuttle in 1985 which also failed.

Scientists were unable to agree as to why the aiming system failed, but the reason given by most was that it was too sensitive and vulnerable to interference from unwanted light, like moonbeams or the glow from the Earth's atmosphere.

Attempts to redesign computer software so the star-tracking system would ignore interference were hampered by a malfunction late Monday of a shuttle computer that controls the tracking system.

The computer had to be restarted and the redesigned software was being retransmitted to Columbia by scientists on the ground.

Astronauts, who were working in alternating 12-hour shifts, tried to aim the telescopes manually, but were having little success.

Not only is the shuttle moving at high speed, circling the Earth every 91 minutes, it also pitches and rolls slightly in orbit.

Scientists said aiming the telescopes at stars billions of light years away was like trying to look through a pair of binoculars while standing on the deck of a ship at sea.

After several hours of using a small "joystick" to aim the telescopes, a clearly frustrated astronaut Ron Parise radioed to NASA flight controllers in Huntsville, Alabama, that the target star was "wandering around too fast" to remain centred in the crosshairs of his aiming display.

A few minutes later, astronaut Robert Parker, when ordered by ground controllers to make another try after several unsuccessful attempts, asked by radio whether this attempt "has any more chance of working than the others?"

Michelle Schneider, a Huntsville flight controller, could be seen on NASA's closed-circuit television shaking her head in resignation, but she answered: "We hope so, Bob."

Despite the difficulties, NASA officials said the problems amounted to "trouble-shooting" and the flight of Columbia, which began early Sunday, would remain in space until its scheduled landing on Dec. 11.

"The country's military-industrial complex has been created over decades by the labour and the skill of the entire people, it employs the best workers and engineers, has the most modern equipment and sophisticated technology," Ryzhkov declared.

"I hear calls for the complex to be broken up, but I am categorically opposed to this and as long as I am working and as long as I live I will not permit it," he told workers at one plant, according to the weekly.

Under the leadership reform first presented to parliament on Nov. 17, Gorbachev said he would take charge of the council of ministers or government, raising speculation that the increasingly unpopular Ryzhkov might step aside.

Radicals and even moderate reformers say the former engineer and factory manager has offered an ambassadorial post, was replaced by a long-time Communist official, Boris Pugo, who headed the KGB security party in Latvia and then became its party chief.

Gorbachev nominated General Boris Grigorov, ex-commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan who has in the past asserted his belief in strong central authority and Communism, to be Pugo's first deputy at the ministry.

Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the huge Russian Federation and a former deputy to Ryzhkov, told his parliament Tuesday his administration could not implement the programme fully because of resistance from the union government.

Gorbachev went to the Supreme Soviet against a background of increasing accusations from radicals that he is pulling back from wide-ranging reform under heavy pressure from hard-liners and the military.

Political figures on the Soviet left say the president's removal at the weekend of Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin who had allowed Communists to control over the police to be relaxed was a concession to the conservatives.

Bakatin, who according to parliamentary sources could be offered an ambassadorial post, was replaced by a long-time Communist official, Boris Pugo, who headed the KGB security party in Latvia and then became its party chief.

Gorbachev nominated General Boris Grigorov, ex-commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan who has in the past asserted his belief in strong central authority and Communism, to be Pugo's first deputy at the ministry.

Rebels surrender before Bush's visit to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Rebel Argentine troops calling for an army shake-up have surrendered two days before U.S. President George Bush arrives as part of a South American tour to celebrate the continent's return to democracy.

They gave up after fierce fighting in which loyal troops pounded some rebel positions with field guns and tanks.

Press reports said a column of rebel tanks approaching Buenos Aires was also stopped after an air force bombardment.

A rebel interviewed by local radio said the uprising was aimed at forcing changes in army high command and was not intended to overthrow the government. But Menem said it had been a coup attempt and rebels could face the death penalty.

The last rebel group to surrender was at army headquarters. They gave up after nightfall after the government threatened to bomb the building and spotter planes roared overhead.

Eyewitnesses said about 75 rebels sat sullenly outside with heads bowed as their captors collected their gear and boots.

Miguel Angel Toma, president of the Congressional Defence Committee, said the rebels were linked to retired Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineidin, who led a December 1988 uprising and was regarded as the inspiration for two earlier rebellions.

The uprisings involved junior officers unhappy with the high command and angry at trials of military personnel for crimes committed during the 1976-83 military junta's war on leftists. Seineidin is detained at a base in the Andes for sending Menem an open letter warning of an explosive situation in the army.

Michigan suicide doctor charged with murder

PONTIAC, Michigan (AP) — A doctor who invented a device that a woman used to kill herself was charged with first-degree murder by a prosecutor.

Janet Adkins, 54, of Portland, Oregon, died on June 4 after being hooked to the device invented by Dr. Jack Kevorkian. She had been diagnosed in June 1989 with Alzheimer's disease.

Kevorkian connected Adkins to an intravenous solution that would stop her heart, but she activated the switch that allowed it to flow into her veins.

The criminal charges were filed one day before a civil trial in Oakland County circuit court to determine whether Kevorkian could have his machine back. It was confiscated after the woman's death.

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There were no immediate re-

Both appointments have to be ratified by the Supreme Soviet, but in the current climate of mounting crime and public sentiment for law and order amid widespread food shortages the legislature is believed unlikely to resist from the union government.

Despite charges by the radicals against Gorbachev, some supporters say they fail to take into account the realities of the current situation where despite the appearance of many new parties, the Communist apparatus remains very powerful.

"Gorbachev has to advance towards reforms and, in particular, towards a market... when in his own rear partisans of conservatism have stepped up their activity," said Vyacheslav Kostikov of the Novosti Press Agency.

"To accuse Gorbachev of running too slowly means failing to see the realities and traditions in which his perestroika is unfolding," Kostikov wrote in a commentary distributed by Novostis Tass.

Meanwhile Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said his republic won't sign the country's new union treaty until Gorbachev recognises the republic's right to control its own economy.

More than 70 people have died and 500 wounded in clashes between security forces and demonstrators since Ershad imposed a state of emergency last week.

"Why can't he resign here and now rather than bringing all kinds of red herrings across the trail?" Khaleda asked.

All three opposition alliances have rejected Ershad's peace plan and say they will not hold a dialogue with the Bangladeshi leader.

"This is a ruse and we totally reject it," said Awami League Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil.

Rashed Khan Menon, leader of a five-party alliance, said: "This is yet another bluff from Ershad. People will never step into his trap."

In his proposals, which Western diplomats described as a significant retreat, Ershad said he would:

"Resign from office 15 days before nominations were called for presidential elections, handing over power to a neutral vice-president appointed in consultation with the opposition."

"Dissolve parliament."

"Reconstitute the election commission, which supervises the polling, to ensure its neutrality."

"Hold presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day."

"Permit state-owned radio and television to give equal access to political parties."

"Withdraw the state of emergency by December 16."

"Allow foreign dignitaries to oversee elections."

"Reopen all educational institutions of the country by 17 December including Dhaka University, which is the centre of the country's opposition politics."

"Withdraw all press censorship."

"Invite political parties and alliances to discuss with his representatives how to implement those objectives."

Ershad said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had accepted his invitation to head a team of election observers.

Invitations had been sent to British parliamentarians. "I want to eliminate the roots of contention, to remove last vestige of the scar of mutual suspicion, mistrust and distrust," he said in his broadcast.

Polish supporters put faith in dark horse candidate

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Critics say Stanislaw Tyminski is telling fairy tales, but his supporters don't appear to mind hearing them.

"Tyminski creates a chance for Poland," 29-year-old Barbara Dzienis, a well-dressed Warsaw entrepreneur, said Monday after a rally for the dark horse presidential candidate.

Law and Order Minister Adriana Viok imposed the all-night curfew on the townships of Katowice, Thokoz, Koscielno and Bialystok.

Tyminski is for me a kind of professional," said Jerzy Krosnicki, a 44-year-old worker. "So far, we've had politicians but we haven't had people connected with business and the main problem in Poland doesn't lie in politics but in business. We can furl the banners and start working."

"We do fear those mysteries, but this is a necessary evil," said Mrs. Dzienis.

Instead, they seem impressed by his status as a self-proclaimed millionaire financial whiz.

"Tyminski is for me a kind of professional," said Jerzy Krosnicki, a 44-year-old worker. "So far, we've had politicians but we haven't had people connected with business and the main problem in Poland doesn't lie in politics but in business. We can furl the banners and start working."

At news conferences, Tyminski fends off questioners and is consistently unable to present a clear economic programme that would accomplish such rapid improvement. He mainly stresses tax re-

Opposition rejects Ershad's peace offer

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's main opposition leaders Tuesday rejected a surprise peace plan by President Hussain Mohammed Ershad, accusing him of trying to buy time and demanding his immediate resignation.

They said wide-ranging proposals Ershad offered on Monday night, including elections for his job, was an attempt to divide his opponents, quell public outrage against him and prolong his rule.

"His bluff has been called. He is planning other methods to cling on to power," said Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

As she made the statement an eight-hour general strike took hold in Bangladesh, closing offices, banks and businesses and halting public transport.

It was the first of a series of eight-hour strikes which the opposition said would continue until Ershad resigned. He has ruled the impoverished South Asian country for nearly nine years.

More than 70 people have died and 500 wounded in clashes between security forces and demonstrators since Ershad imposed a state of emergency last week.

"Why can't he resign here and now rather than bringing all kinds of red herrings across the trail?" Khaleda asked.

All three opposition alliances have rejected Ershad's peace plan and say they will not hold a dialogue with the Bangladeshi leader.

"This is a ruse and we totally reject it," said Awami League Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil.

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Ershad said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had accepted his invitation to head a team of election observers.

Invitations had been sent to British parliamentarians. "I want to eliminate the roots of contention, to remove last vestige of the scar of mutual suspicion, mistrust and distrust," he said in his broadcast.

"Tyminski doesn't know much about Poland now but at least he is not connected with any clique," said Mrs. Dzienis' husband, Andrzej. "Tyminski worked for his money — maybe more or maybe less honestly — but he worked."

The couple represent one kind of Tyminski supporter, a sort of Polish yuppie looking for economic success. In the unfilled sports hall Monday night were others: Pensioners struggling with prices that have risen 100 to 200 times since the lifting of communist-era controls that nearly bankrupted the country.

Workers who face the loss of their once guaranteed-for-life jobs as inefficient state-run factories are closed.

People generally discontented with their lives in Poland.

Tyminski comports himself modestly and disconcerts critics with an implacable calm. He graciously accepts hugs and offers reassurance to a woman who fears she cannot survive on her pension. He smilingly accepts a baby to be kissed. His supporters

Planes collide at Detroit Airport, at least 8 killed

ROMULUS, Michigan (AP) — At least eight people were killed and 20 injured when a jetliner clipped another while preparing for takeoff, igniting a fire that left one plane in smoking ruins, officials said.

Both flights had originated in Detroit, said Patrick McCann, a Northwest spokesman at its headquarters in Eagan, Minnesota.

"Apparently the right wing of the 727 hit the left section, the engine, of the DC-9, taking the engine off," said Alan Muncaster, another Northwest spokesman. "That resulted in the fire. That, at this point, is all we know."

It was not immediately clear what caused the collision at the Detroit Airport Monday between a DC-9 and a Boeing 727-200, both operated by Northwest Airlines.

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